IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ELECTION OF CLAIMS AND AMENDMENT

Applicant: Didion Docket No.: DIDION.1136

Serial No.: 10/765,429 Group Art Unit: 3725

Filed: 01/27/04 Examiner: Miller, Bena B.

TITLE: TOOL AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING WOOD DURING

WOODWORKING OPERATIONS

Mail Stop AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the office action dated March 13, 2006, please amend the subject patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 17-23.

1. (Original) A tool comprising:

- at least one substantially flat portion including:

 at least one slot that opens to an edge of the substantially flat portion; and

 at least one hole.

 2. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein the at least one slot is tapered.
- 3. (Original) The tool of claim 1 comprising a plurality of holes.
- 1-4. (Original) The tool of claim 3 wherein the plurality of holes include holes of different
- 2 sizes.

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- $1 \quad \ \ 5. \ (Original) \ \ The tool of claim \ 1 \ further comprising a measurement scale near an edge of$
- 2 the tool.
- 1 6. (Original) The tool of claim 1 further comprising at least one tapered edge.

- 1 7. (Original) A tool comprising:
- 2 a first substantially flat portion;
- a second substantially flat portion lying in substantially the same plane as the first
- 4 portion; and
- 5 a connecting portion that connects the first and second portions, the connecting
- 6 portion extending above the plane of the first and second portions.
- 8. (Original) The tool of claim 7 wherein first portion comprises at least one slot that
- 2 opens to an edge of the first portion.
- 9. (Original) The tool of claim 8 wherein the first portion further comprises at least one
- 2 hole.
- 1 10. (Original) The tool of claim 8 wherein at least one slot is tapered.
- 1 11. (Original) The tool of claim 7 wherein second portion comprises at least one slot that
- 2 opens to an edge of the second portion.
- 1 12. (Original) The tool of claim 11 wherein the second portion further comprises at least
- 2 one hole.
- 1 13. (Original) The tool of claim 11 wherein at least one slot is tapered.
- 1 14. (Original) The tool of claim 11 further comprising a measurement scale near an edge
- 2 of the tool.
- 1 15. (Original) The tool of claim 11 further comprising at least one tapered edge.

1	16. (Original) A tool comprising:
2	a first substantially flat portion, the first portion including at least one tapered slot
3	and at least one hole;
4	a second substantially flat portion lying in substantially the same plane as the first
5	portion, and second portion including at least one tapered slot and at least one hole; and
6	a connecting portion that connects the first and second portions, the connecting
7	portion extending above the plane of the first and second portions;
8	a measurement scale near an edge of the tool;
9	at least one tapered edge;
10	wherein the first portion, second portion, and connecting portion are
11	monolithically formed from a substantially transparent plastic.

17-23 (Cancelled)

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 were originally filed in this patent application. In response to the pending restriction requirement dated 3/13/06, applicant has cancelled claims 17-23. Claims 1-16 as originally filed are currently pending.

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicant hereby elects without traverse claims 1-16 for prosecution on the merits. Non-elected claims 17-23 have been cancelled herein.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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